

62. A forward error correction decoder, for substantially simultaneously decoding a first forward error correction coded signal and a second forward error correction coded signal, the first and second forward error correction coded signals being digital signals and each of the first and second signals being decodable to recover the same uncoded user message, characterised in that the forward error correction decoder includes a de-puncturing unit, the de-puncturing unit being adapted so that the bits which are de-punctured from the first signal are different from the bits de-punctured from the second signal.

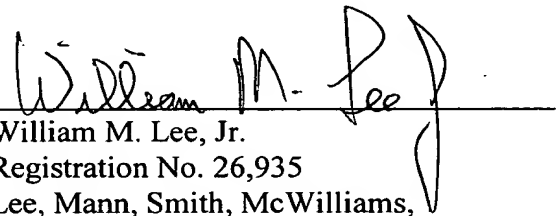
REMARKS

The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency from the application and provide a new set of claims, corresponding to the claims in the International Preliminary Examination Report, but without multiple dependency. Should any multiple dependency remain, that is unintended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation of the application filing fee.

The International Preliminary Examination Report for this report reaches the conclusion that the claims meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (non-obviousness). It is submitted that the same result should occur in the United States.

Examination of the Application on its merits is awaited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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